

Sawai language

The **Sawai language** (also **Weda**) is a South Halmahera language of Austronesian stock spoken in Weda and Gane Timor districts of southern Halmahera, northern Maluku Province, Indonesia. There are approximately 12,000 speakers.

Contents
Sounds
Consonants
Vowels
Syllable
References
Bibliography

Sounds

Below is description of the Kobe dialect of Sawai spoken in the villages of Lelilef Woyebulan and Kobe Peplis.

Consonants

Sawai has 14 consonants:

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>
<u>Stop</u>	p b	t d		k g
<u>Fricative</u>	f	s		
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n		ŋ
<u>Semivowel</u>	w		j	
<u>Lateral</u>		l		

Vowels

Sawai has 7 vowels:

Sawai	
Weda	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	North Maluku province
Native speakers	12,000 (2000) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none">Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central–Eastern Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eastern Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">South Halmahera–West New Guinea<ul style="list-style-type: none">Halmahera Sea<ul style="list-style-type: none">South Halmahera<ul style="list-style-type: none">Buli<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sawai
Dialects	Weda <div></div> Sawai <div></div> Kobe <div></div> Faya-Mafa <div></div> Messa-Dote <div></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	szw
Glottolog	sawa1247 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sawa1247) ^[2]

	Front	Back
High	i	u
High-Mid	e	o
Low-Mid	ɛ	ɔ
Low	a	

Syllable

Sawai has the following syllable structure:

(C)(C)V(C)

Examples:

word	gloss	syllable type
/i/	's/he/it'	V
/in/	'fish'	VC
/wo/	'alcoholic drink'	CV
/npɔ/	's/he/it gives'	CCV
/kot/	'magic statue'	CVC
/nfan/	's/he/it goes'	CCVC

References

1. Sawai (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/szw/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Sawai" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sawa1247>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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